

## CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for transferring content from one computer resource to another computer resource, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 intercepting the transfer to a destination of one or more information elements selected from a source;
  - performing a compatibility check for each intercepted information element with the destination by consulting one or more user-configurable compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;
  - 10 for each incompatible element, performing a compatibility handling action as defined by one or more conversion rules; and
  - for each compatible element, allowing transfer of the unmodified compatible element to the destination.
- 15 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and
  - allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action selected from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a
  - 20 compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
- invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and
- 5 allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action selected from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion rule, and modifying a conversion rule.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said steps of creating and
- 10 modifying a conversion rule comprise creating and modifying a conversion rule which specifies performing an action selected from the group of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip
- 15 element from one format to another format, converting animated image element from one format to another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
- 20 5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of performing a compatibility handling action comprises performing an action selected from the list of converting a text element from one format to another format,

- converting a graphic image element from one format to another format,  
converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting  
an audio clip element from one format to another format, converting animated  
image element from one format to another format, isolating an element,  
5 isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination,  
isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said  
destination.
6. A computer readable medium encoded with software for transferring content  
10 from one computer resource to another computer resource, said software  
performing the steps of:
- intercepting the transfer to a destination of one or more information  
elements selected from a source;
- performing a compatibility check for each intercepted information  
15 element with the destination by consulting one or more user-configurable  
compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;
- for each incompatible element, performing a compatibility handling  
action as defined by one or more conversion rules; and
- for each compatible element, allowing transfer of the unmodified  
20 compatible element to the destination.
7. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising

software for performing the steps of:

invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and

allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action

5 selected from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

8. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising software for performing the steps of:

10 invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and

allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action

selected from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion rule, and modifying a conversion rule.

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9. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said software for creating and modifying a conversion rule comprises software for creating and modifying a conversion rule which specifies performing an action selected from the group of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to another format,

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converting animated image element from one format to another format,  
isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to  
said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked  
annotation to said destination.

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10. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said  
software for performing a compatibility handling action comprises software  
for performing an action selected from the list of converting a text element  
from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from  
one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format  
to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to  
another format, converting animated image element from one format to  
another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an  
annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a  
hyperlinked annotation to said destination.

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11. A system for automatically transferring content from one computer resource to  
another computer resource, comprising:

a transfer interceptor configured to intercept one or more information

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elements selected from a source prior to insertion into a destination;

a compatibility checker adapted to verify the compatibility of each  
intercepted information element with the destination by consulting one or

more user-configurable compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;

a compatibility action handler configured to performing an action as defined by one or more conversion rules for each intercepted information element, and further configured to allowing transfer of said compatible elements to the destination without modification.

12. The system as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

a rule management user interface, invoked in response to finding no existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and

one or more user options provided via said rule management user interface, for selecting a compatibility rule management action from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

13. The system as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

a rule management user interface, invoked in response to finding no existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and

one or more user options provided via said rule management user interface, for selecting a user action from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion rule, and modifying a conversion rule.

14. The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said user action list comprises  
at least one action selected from the list of creating and modifying a  
conversion rule which specifies performing an action selected from the group  
of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a  
5 graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video  
clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip  
element from one format to another format, converting animated image  
element from one format to another format, isolating an element, isolating an  
element and transferring an annotation to said destination, isolating an element  
10 and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
15. The system as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said compatibility action handler  
is further configured to perform an action selected from the list of converting a  
text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image  
15 element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element  
from one format to another format, converting an audio clip element from one  
format to another format, converting animated image element from one format  
to another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring  
an annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a  
20 hyperlinked annotation to said destination.